

# THEIR PROBLEMS AND INTERESTS

## WHAT A FEW OF THIS SUMMER'S DAINY NEGLIGEEES ARE LIKE

Some Coquettish and Charming Garments--Home-Made Garments Nice.

The season of the cool negligee is at hand; though, for that matter, women now wear filmy boudoir gowns and matinees at all times in the year.

One type of negligee, however, is peculiarly associated with summer days, and has grown rapidly in popularity during the last few seasons. This is the lingerie matinee in connection with a lingerie petticoat to match; and, although the costume is appropriate for the boudoir only, and is too emphatically a deshabille to be correctly worn as many women wear it about the house, it is, in its more elaborate forms, most coquettish and charming.

Along with all other lingerie garments it has taken on new daintiness and attractiveness of late, and Americans have been gradually educated to an extravagance in matters of lingerie that was unknown to their mothers and grandmothers. French women have always spent money lavishly on their lingerie, but French women could buy exquisite hand-made lingerie for a fraction of the sum charged for it on this side of the water, and though there has been a tremendous improvement in domestic lingerie work during recent years, the French models still set the standards, and many American women buy only the imported, hand-made underwear, etc.

Until very recently it was practically impossible to obtain a domestic lingerie negligee model in which hand work and fine materials were allowed to furnish the elegance of the garment. Over trimming, associated with careless machine work and coarse materials, was the prevailing characteristic of the domestic negligee offered ready made in the shops; but we have changed all that.

One still sees many models of the old type, and there are still plenty of women who prefer them, while others buy them because they are cheaper than the daintier garments; but the general level of the designing, quality, and workmanship upon the ready made negligee has risen each season, and this year the shops abound in matinees and robes that are attractive even when not phenomenally expensive.

For the woman who cannot afford extravagance, and yet covets the daintiest of negligee sacks and robes, the only resort is home sewing, and within a few weeks there will be offered bargains galore in the departments of negligees, embroideries, and sheer summer materials, from among which the clever shopper may choose materials for her summer negligees which will bring their cost away below that of the imported or fine domestic, ready made negligee, particularly if the shopper can do her own sewing.

With the prettiest of the sack and petticoat models, the effect is a matter of materials and hand work, rather than of intricate design. Of course, there are the elaborate robes, beautiful with delicate hand embroideries, with lace inset in complicated fashion; but there are also, hand made models almost as delightful in which the hand work is limited to tiny tucks, to simply inset lace, to seams set together by machine, and to other devices which are not beyond the accomplishment of any woman who can do fine, though plain, hand needle work.

The simplest type of lingerie matinee among the French models and the domestic copies of the imported models has a little yoke made of insertion set together by hand. The lower part of the sack is joined to this yoke, being set on with tiny tucks, while below the tucks the material falls in a straight line.

The bottom is trimmed with inset lace and lace frills, as are the elbow sleeves, on fronts and ends of liberty satin set on with tiny tucks, and the lower part of the matinee, if the ribbon is cleverly tied. One can, by the way, have the tying done at the ribbon counter of any good shop if one has not the knack, and the skillful manipulation of ribbon is distinctly a thing of the past.

Often the lower part of the matinee is made of deep embroidery flouncing, very fine and fine, and applied to the yoke, as well as in the model just described, but needing, of course, no additional finish at the bottom. In such a model the sleeve trimming usually has the embroidery introduced in some way, but the yoke may be of either embroidery, lace insertion, and often combines the two.

A petticoat of the lingerie material and an embroidered flouncing is easily made, and this style of sack and petticoat negligee is probably the simplest of its kind, in so far as making is concerned, though the fine embroidery is never cheap, and if one is willing to give one's time the lace trimmed negligee can be manufactured at less expense than the embroidery model.

One particularly dainty model shown by an importer might be reproduced without great outlay of time or money, provided some slight modifications were made. It is of dotted Swiss of the best quality, and the petticoat is simply finished with three flounces, made with embroidered scallop edges under which are set little frills of narrow Valenciennes.

If this scalloping were done by hand it would mean considerable trouble, but one can obtain the same effect with machine scalloping and can have this done very cheaply at any of the sewing machine shops. The sack of the model is perfectly simple in design, hanging straight and slightly flared, with a little yoke and finished with a scallop border and lace frill; but this sack has a dainty feature in the oddly shaped collar, which gives originality to it. The collar is embroidered by hand, but in a very simple design which might be copied with little labor, and even without the embroidery, the negligee would be exceedingly attractive.

Fine dotted Swiss or Swiss embroidery in small designs is a good choice for the sack and petticoat negligee, giving the daintiness and washable freshness of lingerie materials and yet having less the air of deshabille than the plain sheer lawns, lilies, batistes, etc. The latter are susceptible of most elaborate trimming and design than the Swiss, but they demand more trimming and an unpretentious negligee the embroidered Swiss offers admirable qualifications.

Among the French models there are innumerable models in the plain lingerie stuffs, but a large number of them are adorned with intricate hand embroidery, or so complicated in their set lace treatment that they cannot easily be copied, for all their illusive air of babyish simplicity. There are, however, some models which need not daunt the ordinarily clever seamstress, if she does not shrink from plain though fine hand sewing.

The skirt has the same treatment, and both sack and skirt have scallop frills at bottom, though lace inset insertion and frills might well be substituted.

Nothing is quite so pretty for the sack and skirt negligee as lingerie stuff, but for loose matinees to be worn over dress skirts all sorts of plain and flowered sheer silks, crepes and cotton and silk mixtures are employed.

The pretty flowered crystalline and similar cotton and silk stuffs which are inexpensive, though really lovely in design and coloring, have been chosen by the makers of negligee garments for many attractive models in both matinee and gown form, and these flowered stuffs, of course, require less trimming than plain materials, lace frills, and ribbon being the usual thing in trimming. The chief difficulty with these materials is their tendency to look stringy and mussy after a little wear, but they can always be pressed out, and some of them will wash, although they are never quite so pretty after being laundered.

Remnants of the exquisite flowered crepe de chine are to be found at this season at many of the bargain counters, and for a separate matinee of a freer sort, nothing is lovelier than crepe, whether plain or flowered. It wears well, too, and cleans perfectly; and though costing more at the start than a China or India silk, is a better investment in the long run.—New York Sun.

### HOUSEHOLD HELPS

A currycomb makes an excellent fish scaler.

In order to have potatoes always whole, the kettle in which they are cooked should never be used for any other purpose.

A tablespoonful of sugar added to the water for boiling roast beef will give a rich brown color as well as a fine flavor.

Eggs covered with boiling water and allowed to stand five minutes are more nutritious and digestible than when boiled rapidly for three minutes.

In flavoring cakes do not use lemon juice if a light cake is desired, since the acid sets free the carbon dioxide before baking.

The waxed lining paper to cracker boxes is excellent to wrap lunches in. It is very good to clean flat irons with also.

To prevent tomato soup from curdling add the tomatoes before the milk is put into it, and remember to strain the tomato juice before turning it over.

A soft varnish brush with a string or wire through the handle to hang it by is a desirable utensil in every pantry to be used for brushing bread, rolls and pastry with melted butter.

In a fruit pie always mix a tablespoonful of flour thoroughly with the sugar, both dry. If butter is to be used spread on the lower crust before putting in the fruit and it will be evenly distributed through the pie.

A fair substitute for maple sugar is made by taking a pound of granulated white and dark brown sugar, adding one-half the quantity of water until of the desired thickness. When cool three drops of vanilla is added.

Sour milk in which soda has been added, if dissolved in the proportion of one-quarter teaspoonful of soda to one cupful of milk, can be used as milk if only a little less baking powder is used in the recipe.

A novelty attractive to the cook is called a food protector—a dish of enameled wire, perforated and intended to be put in the bottom of a kettle to prevent food from sticking, even should it be in various sizes. They can be had in various sizes, costing from 12 to 20 cents each.

If the sack is sprinkled over the range before frying is commenced, the fat is not so greasy or oily if the fat splatters over.

In frying croquettes in deep fat be sure to plunge the wire basket in the hot fat first before the croquettes are placed in it, otherwise they will not adhere to the wires and fall apart when lifted.

There is now on the market a "frying shield" and appliance which fits into a frying pan, preventing all possibility of the fat running over on the range.

An ingenious woman keeps her bread sponge at an even temperature the year around by putting it in the oven of a stove with a small lighted lamp beside it, leaving the door partly open.

### Table Manners.

Parents, even in a humble cottage home, should pay attention to the conduct and manners of their children at mealtimes. They cannot tell where position they will fill in after life, and a man or woman who is ignorant of the most simple laws of table etiquette is terribly handicapped. Were the parents to reprove the child who conveys its food to its mouth with a knife, or who sticks its elbows out at right angles, the lesson so taught would never be forgotten. There is a time when the child is impressed at an early age will never lose them, and when, after years of struggle, the "manners" will be their chief passport into the circle of their new acquaintances.

### Asparagus Toast.

Tips alone should be used for this dainty, cooking them in salted water as already described, then carefully drain, and to each cupful of the tips, add one chopped hard-boiled egg, a drop or two of Worcestershire sauce and a tablespoonful of spiced vinegar. Heat thoroughly and heap upon rounds of hot buttered toast, running into a very hot oven for five or six minutes before serving; serve garnished with the binding nature of the union which now existed between herself and her husband.

The knot of the "marriage knot," but very few of us realize that the knot was ever anything more than a figure of speech. Among the Babylonians, tying the knot was part of the marriage ceremony, says Home Chat. The priest took a thread from the garment of the bride, and another from that of the bridegroom, and tied them into a knot, which he gave to the bride, thus symbolizing the binding nature of the union which now existed between herself and her husband.

The knot of this world is in the hard things we have to do.—Home Notes.



CHIC SHIRT WAIST.

The design of this shirt waist will appeal strongly to the girl fond of athletic sports. It differs from the regulation Peter Pan blouse at neck and down the front. Our model is collarless; stitched bands of the material crossed in front forming the neck finish. A wide box plait extends to waist line and turned cuffs trim the elbow sleeves. The little pocket on right side is decorated with a pearl button matching those on blouse and cuffs.

## WEEKLY COOKING LESSON BATTERS

By CORNELIA C. BEDFORD.

Batters are thin mixtures of flour and liquid made light by the admixture of some substance which contains or will evolve a gas. We have a choice of air, well beaten eggs or a chemical such as baking powder.

Air can be entangled in batters by quick and vigorous beating. The same result is accomplished by the use of well-beaten eggs. Baking powder contains two or more chemical substances which when combined with a liquid begin to evolve gas, and this gas, divided in tiny bubbles and evenly mixed through the batter, gives the desired lightness. The best baking powder to use is one which contains cream of tartar as the chemical residue left in the batter is not harmful. We can also use a mixture of sour milk and baking soda as, mixed in the proper proportions, they will lighten the batter perfectly.

Cooking on a greased griddle is a sort of two sided baking. Only enough fat to keep the batter cakes from sticking is needed; larger quantities tend to make the cakes greasy and indigestible.

Griddle Cakes—Sift together a pint of flour, a third of a teaspoonful of salt and one teaspoonful of baking powder. Melt one teaspoonful of butter. Stir into the flour a scant pint of sweet milk, beating hard and quickly. Add the melted butter. Grease a hot griddle. Drop the batter on by spoonfuls. When brown on the under side turn with a

### Care of Pets.

Never take your dog out for a run directly after it has had a meal. If the exercise is at all hard the food will remain undigested for hours. It is best not to allow a dog to play even directly after he has swallowed his dinner. In a little time he can do so, but do not encourage him to romp about.

### FOR THE TOILET

To reduce your hips there are a variety of good exercises. One of the best which also has an effect on the liver and is therefore sometimes known as a liver squeezer, is to hold the arms out horizontally while standing erect and then, without moving the limbs, turn the body around, first to the right, then to the left, as far as possible. Next hold the arms high overhead, touching palms, and bend first to the right and then to the left as far as possible with the arms in that position. Bending to the floor, keeping the knees stiff, bending only at the waist line, is fine, and what is known as the "goose step" in German military circles, that of standing firmly on one foot and lifting the other as high as possible, straightening out the leg with the toe pointed as in the act of taking a step, is also excellent.

A delightful lotion to remove an oily condition of the complexion and to contract enlarged pores. Take a half-pint bottle and in it put one and one-half ounces of cucumber juice, half fill the bottle with elder flower water, add one ounce of eau de cologne and shake well. Then add one-half ounce of simple tincture of benzoin, shake slightly and fill with elder flower water. Apply with soft sponge night and morning.

Arnica diluted with warm water will prove a simple and soothing application for tired, burning feet. After the lot has dried in rub the feet gently, using a good toilet cream of oil of sweet almonds. Always draw the blood from the ankle or the instep toward the toes. Support the instep or the ball of the foot with the left hand while rubbing with the right, using the downward motion on the outside of the foot or the ankle. A rotary motion on the instep is very restful.

Almond meal—Orris root in fine powder, four ounces; wheat flour, four ounces; powdered white castile soap, one ounce; sorax, one ounce; oil of bitter almonds, ten drops; oil of bergamot, two drops; tincture of musk, one fluid dram. Mix well and pass through sieve. This should be used instead of soap. It is delightful.

Almond milk is made by blanching thirty good-sized Jordan almonds and bruising them to a powder in half a pint of distilled water. A lump of sugar must be worked in at the same time to prevent the oil from separating. The process takes some time and should be done in a mortar. Strain through cheese-cloth.

To make the milk richer increase the number of nuts used. The preparation is one of the most soothing and bleaching.

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### How to Tell a Person's Age.

Here is a plan to find out a person's age without asking the question. "How old are you?" which is sometimes thought rude.

Ask the girl—I suppose it is a girl—to put down in figures the number of the month in which she was born; to multiply it by 2, then add 5, and multiply the amount by 50; then add her own age, then subtract 365, then add 15; then tell you the sum she has left. This she will be willing to do, for she will not think that three figures can represent her age. But they do, for the figure at the left tells you the month in which she was born, and the two other figures tell you how old she is now. For example, if the amount is 217, she was born in March, the third month, and her age is seventeen.—Home Notes.

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